

KINGS NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 27th March 2022 10 am

The flood - Judgment and the day of separation.

Welcome to all We will have Communion this week instead of next so as to give more time to the visiting organisation the following Sunday.

Opening Scripture

Hymn MP 765 who can cheer the heart like Jesus

Scripture Ps 33

Prayer

Children's talk Noah pictures

Chorus MP 682 There a way back to God

MP 272 I have decided to follow Jesus

Notices Ukraine church. Mothers day, F. Lunch, Leaflets

Sharing time.

Communion

Prayer for the world wide church

Reading Genesis 6 (p.8) 2 Peter 3:3-18 (page 1224)

Hymn MP 181 God forgave
my Sins in Jesu' Name

Sermon Judgment –

The day of separation.

Hymn MP 770 Will you anchor hold in the storms of life

Closing Prayer:

Close

507 O Lord our God how majestic is your Name

Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. Heb 11:7

Welcome and pray

- The war in Ukraine is unique for a number of reasons, one of them is that it will be the most recorded war that has ever taken place.
- The evidence of war crimes are being collected and collated. Every intention is to charge Vladimir Putin with war crimes. What is the chance that he will stand trial? Slim. It is possible he will be arrested while travelling but his bodyguards will probably stop that. There's every chance he will get away with it.

✚ But he won't get away with it. No-one gets away with it.

There is to be a day of reckoning for all mankind. Every transgression, every act of disobedience - will be accounted for. Every breach of God's Holy law will be punished. Every proud heart will be brought low.

This morning let us learn from God's great act of judgment in the flood.

It is found in Genesis Ch. 6-8. It is also referred to by the prophets in the OT, it is referred to by Jesus, it is attested by the fossil record, and it's attested in the folk histories of the world. There was indeed a worldwide flood.

What caused this mighty act of Judgment? how were things before? Was there any warning? What happened? and was there any way of escape?

How were things before? – They were bad!

Verses 1 - 4 appear confusing, various explanations have been given. Who were the Nephilim? Who were the sons of God and the daughters of men?

Without giving arguments or explanation because of time may I suggest: the "sons of God" are those of the godly line the descendants of Seth. The "daughters of men" are the descendants of Cain, the wicked evil line.

The "sons of God" married the "daughters of men". It is mentioned twice – so it's significant. The godly Sethites intermarried with the immoral Cainites and thus became corrupted by them. Here is a lesson for us.

Whenever the godly mixes with the ungodly, 9 times out of 10, the ungodly will drag the godly down. The godly become corrupted.

That is what happened when the Moabite women seduced the Israelites, That is what happened when Solomon married foreign women, he ended going after their gods 1 K 11:1-4. God was angered when the Israelites took wives from the ungodly nations around them. Ezra 9:1-2 Neh 13:23-25.

Christians must not marry those who serve a different master. 2 Cor. 6:14

It is easily done but let us beware.



I've mentioned mixed marriages, but it could be any kind of mixed alliance – a holiday, a business, spending much time, having close association with the ungodly. **Bad company corrupts good character.** Has that happened to you? It has me, is it happening to you right now?

The Nephilim v4 were we understand, giants, men of great stature who inspired fear Num. 13:33. They were violent, cruel and ferocious tyrants who instilled terror in the land and trampled all that is just and sacred. In their pride, arrogance and contempt of God, they boasted of their wickedness.

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. Ge 6:5

Wickedness prospers when a continued and brazen disregard for anything good prevails. It spirals seemingly out of control going from bad to worse.

- Life in some homes, roads or tower blocks seem like this. Armies become like this, trained soldiers become sadistic and vicious.

Man's wickedness knows no bounds it is a force that storms heaven itself.

This is not the ascent of man, but his descent. Mankind had descended below the animal kingdom, please never insult animals by comparing man to them. Animals may kill to eat but man's cruelty to his fellow man beggars belief. He even parades it, there are in many countries 'torture museums'. Pleasure seeking, greed, hatred are unique to man. Animals copulate, the sexual deviance and perversion of mankind is shocking.

Man has descended from his high image bearing zenith to the lowest gutter.

You are right we are not like that all of the time, but the essence is there. All the ingredients are there, it just requires provocation. God here says **that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was - only evil - all the time.** x2

✚ God sees what is really going on and calls it the rebelliousness it is.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. Ge 6:11

This is no sugar coated 'state of the nation address'.

God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Ge 6:12

The Apostle Peter describes them as **ungodly disobedient people.** 1Pe 3:20

✚ What an affront to a Holy God. God is a Holy God. x2

God does not turn a blind eye. God does not, will not wink at sin, he does not move to some middle ground, he will not meet you half-way, No his holiness demands perfection of all that he has made. Purity and perfection.

✚ How little we see sin for what it is. How dulled we are to our true self
Trickery, self-centeredness, immorality, when a woman wants me to join with her in celebrating a baby – I think “where's your husband”, and sometimes I say it - as Jesus did to the woman at the well.

At least one woman like this stopped coming to church because she didn't like the talk of sin. That is what preaching does. If the preacher doesn't say it - then preacher will be held accountable. God said to the prophets in Jeremiah's time **The visions of your prophets were false and worthless;** why? because **they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity.** La 2:14

✚ Sin takes a person captive - and leads them to inevitable punishment.

A God who does not Judge sin is not good. A God who will not judge is an ogre. He is as wicked as the sin he fails to punish.

If God is good why doesn't he warn people? He did - and he does.

Warnings of Judgment

“The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. God does not desire to punish, he is slow to anger but in seeing all that is happening is grieved, it pains him.

Peter said **God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.** 1Pe 3:20

He **waited patiently**, and in his love - he sent - a preacher.

Noah, we are told was **a preacher of righteousness,** x2 2Pe 2:5

Will they listen? Will they see the error of their ways? Will they come to their senses? That is what preaching does it attempts to stir up the conscience and it was a long sermon what was it 75 years or more! !

The ark being slowly built was a poignant reminder of what was to come.

So the church, this building, churches and cathedrals are not meant to be tourist attraction because of their architecture, or wall paintings but a sober reminder of God's presence. Every Godly man or woman living amongst other is - to some the fragrance life, those who are to be saved, - but the rest the smell of death! A warning.

Noah was a righteous man in their midst - but then as now - those around continued to ignore the message of salvation. After all nothing happened, they weren't struck down, "where is this flood Noah?" You are building this boat in the middle of dry land, there's no water anywhere! There will be no flood, no Judgment! everything will carry on as it has always done.

"God won't touch me. God can't touch me". However, that invisible cloud of judgment was hanging over above them.

Resist what God has shown you, resist the voice of conscience, resist what you know of God's Saviour Son and there will be a day of reckoning.

It was a long sermon - but it was also a fruitless sermon. By the end - no takers. In the end only Noah and seven others of his family were saved.

No-one could ever say "we were never told"

Finally enough was enough - the time had come and we read the chilling words **the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—for I am grieved that I have made them."** Ge 6:6-7

How did the Judgment come?

The first things to say is that - it was sudden x2

The sun came up to another bright day – but it was their last day.

- *When working on this sermon the sun was shining and it made me think of being on the beach in Spain, a mass of humanity 50 yards deep stretch as far as the eye could see in both directions. All happily swimming, playing games on the sand or lying in the sun without a care in the world.*

I tried to imagine what it would be like to the person over there playing with his children, and God saying "today your life is be required of you". I tried to imagine what it would be like for Jesus to appear in the sky.

Jesus said: **in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.** Mt 24:38,39

Also it was a total destruction.

Luke records Jesus saying: **Then the flood came and destroyed them all.** Lu 17:27 Not in parts, not a local flood, but over the whole earth. **"I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish."** Ge 6:17 (read from Gen 7:17-24)

3a

And just to confirm we read **Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.** Ge 7:17-24. So Isaiah confirms **the waters of Noah covered the earth.** Isa 54:9

There was total worldwide destruction. The only one. There was in the 70/80's the fear of total nuclear destruction. Now it's global warning.

The rainbow is God's promise that there will never again be a total judgment as there was then. **"Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."** Ge 9:11.

Seedtime and harvest, summer and winter will continue – until Christ returns.

In the meantime God's word reminds us that there are ongoing judgments now - to warn us that there will be a Day of Judgment to come. And then the world will be made anew destroyed beyond recognition, not by water, but by fire, everything burned up, the world cleansed of all trace of evil.

Praise God that there is a rescue from the Judgment

Noah was told: **make yourself an ark,** Ge 6:14

The ark is the place of safety. The word ark is תבה ⁰⁸³⁹² tebah tay-baw' and it means a wooden chest or box, but the word is also used of Moses' 'basket' which floated on the Nile. His place of safety from drowning.

The same word is used of the ark of the covenant, the box in the holy of holies in the tabernacle or temple. Within were the two stone tablets of God's holy law the ten commandments. Above was the cover. Here the priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice, to cover over the sins of those who broke God's Law. It was called 'the mercy seat' a phrase coined by William Tyndale. Here God gives mercy – and God would accept them and meet with them.

Jesus fully obeyed God's law, the ten commandments and therefore is able through his shed blood on the cross to forgive all who come to Him.

Jesus is with his sprinkled blood the mediator of a new covenant, Heb 12:24

The ark or box was a symbol of being saved whether the judgment on the flood or the judgment to come. Noah is picture of Jesus.

Jesus is the ark by which I can be saved. That is why he says **"come to me"** Without Jesus there is no forgiveness, and therefore only a fearful expectation of the judgment to come. Sudden and total. When will that be? When you die and depart to appear before God to await the Day of Judgment which will happen when Jesus returns to end this world.

3b

- ✚ The world was ended then once - and only a few saved - to show you, So the world will end and only those in Jesus will be saved.

It is Jesus alone who can save you from the wrath to come. Wood Ark/Cross

Jesus is as Noah. Jesus said: “**No-one knows about that day or hour. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.** Mt 24:36-42

- ✚ The flood brought separation. some drown some are saved.

Jesus warns us *"watch out you don't know when I will come"*

The reality of impending judgment should drive us to the cross.. **Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.** Ps 32:6

Not done that? Then do so. Not sure of where you stand? Then there is still something to be done.

- My rattling exhaust is a constant reminder that something needs to be done. Ageing likewise, troubles in the world and in your life are a constant reminder that something needs to be done.

Get in, enter in before it is too late and the door is shut. It says when Noah had built the ark and the everyone was in **Then the Lord shut them in** Gen 7:16

When the disciples asked Jesus who were going to be saved he said: “**Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ "But he will answer, ‘I don't know you ’”** x2 Lu 13:24-25

- ✚ Now is the time to forsake all else and to enter - Have you? will you?

- Near St. Paul's once stood the sombre heavy stone building of Newgate prison. The last execution that took place there was of a poor woman who had been sentenced to death for a serious crime.
- She was to die at seven o'clock in the morning. At six o'clock the warders went into the cell and found her quietly sleeping and smiling as she lay unconsciously so near her death. They had not the heart to wake her, so they left her for another half-hour. Again they came, but still she slept, dreaming, as they learned afterwards, of the early days of her childhood when she lived in a village home peacefully and happily—of father and mother, of brothers and sisters, of innocent days in the field gathering buttercups or daisies, or roaming the quiet lanes in the still evenings of summer days.

- When compelled by duty the warders lightly shook the sleeping woman she suddenly became aware of reality and issued a bitter, piercing scream, a cry never to be forgotten by those who heard it.

There will one day be such an awakening for every sinner, when the reality of condemnation, judgment, and eternity are seen and realized.

- ✚ Oh, sinner, flee to Christ today, while salvation is offered and impending wrath is withheld!

If you have, if for you the storm is past, then you have one overriding duty – that is to warn others. The reality of impending judgment must cause us who are now saved from that dreadful day - to do all we can to warn others.

- I remember in the USA driving along the banks of a wide river. There were a number of cruise boats with their open decks at the back. On the decks, reclining in chairs were men and women relaxing with their drinks in the warm sunshine. A mile downstream the river suddenly crashed down hundreds of feet into the Niagra falls. Any boat that fails to turn back will go over to certain death.

“Did they know what was further down the river”? I thought. The answer is they must have known, they did know. And where prepared.

What if they didn't know? I should and must warn them of what is ahead!

As Christians we must warn others, speak out the Gospel of peace with God. To love our neighbour is to – as a matter of urgency - tell them how to be saved.

The gospel of Jesus is the gospel of salvation, it is the only way of escape. Like a corridor of doors so there are in this life many ways – there is but one door that leads to safety - that door is Jesus Christ.

What better time in the year than Easter to speak of the cross?

We do not have missionaries coming to us this year, do we need to look to others?

Every Christian should be willing to go out and tell. Every Christian should be obeying Christ's command to go and tell.

Surely the love of Christ compels us – we can say what we know, or at least we can say “this is what the Lord has done for me”.

Let us do this together and help each other in this most urgent work.

Amen.

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